

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A ~~nanoparticle~~ composition ~~comprising containing polymeric nanoparticles entrapping a fluorescent dye or other substance~~ indocyanine green entrapped within the matrix of a spherical or nearly spherical polymeric nanoparticle, wherein said polymeric nanoparticle is comprised of a polymer selected from the group consisting of PLGA, PLA, PVA, PGA, Chitosan, Albumin, and any combination thereof.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A composition comprising indocyanine green entrapped within the matrix of a [[A]] PLGA nanoparticle—ICG complex.
15. (Currently amended) A contrast agent comprising a polymeric nanoparticle-near-infrared dye complex the composition of claim 2 or 14.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Currently amended) A method for treating cancer, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a composition comprising ~~one or more polymeric dye complexes~~ the composition of claim 2 or 14 in an amount effective to prevent, ameliorate, reduce, or eliminate cancer cells.
20. (New) The composition of claims 2 or 14 wherein the intracellular uptake of said composition is greater than the intracellular uptake of said fluorescent dye alone.
21. (New) The composition of claims 2 or 14 wherein the aqueous stability of said fluorescent dye is greater than the aqueous stability of said fluorescent dye alone.